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Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 26 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the communiqué of the session of the Council on Collective Security of the Collective Security Treaty Organization adopted in Sochi on 23 September 2013 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 26 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué of the session of the Council on Collective Security of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

The Council on Collective Security (hereinafter — "the Council") notes the positive momentum in the development of the collective security system of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in all its main fields of operation, and the establishment of the Organization as one of the fundamental instruments guaranteeing the security of the Collective Security Treaty Organization member States and stability in the area of collective security.

The Council notes with concern the escalation of international instability resulting from conflicts and crisis situations, especially in the Near East and Middle East, and in North Africa. It notes the possibility that new challenges and threats will emerge in the region and in the world as a whole, following the withdrawal in 2014 from Afghanistan of the main contingent of the International Security Assistance Force. It emphasizes the overriding need for general efforts, within the Collective Security Treaty Organization, to achieve peace and stability.

The Heads of State of the Collective Security Treaty Organization members consider it important to implement foreign policy cooperation, coordination and the development of common approaches to developments in the present international situation. In this context, it is all the more advisable for the Collective Security Treaty Organization member States to act in concert within the United Nations and other international forums.

The Council attaches fundamental importance to the prevention of external threats and outside interference, to the strengthening of joint efforts to counter international terrorism and extremism, the illicit trafficking of drugs and arms, illegal migration and trafficking in persons, and the use of information and communication technologies for unlawful purposes, including joint efforts of the type undertaken through the internationally recognized series of comprehensive preventive operations entitled "Kanal" ("Channel"), "Nelegal", and also "Proksi". The implementation of the decision to provide assistance to the Republic of Tajikistan in strengthening the Tajik-Afghan border is designed to make a substantive contribution to the resolution of these problems.

The Council attaches great significance to the formation of an effective collective response system for emergency situations, including man-made and natural disasters.

As part of the enhancement of military cooperation, and also increasing the combat potential of the troops and resources of the collective security system, it would be justified and timely to approve the main areas of development of military cooperation among the Collective Security Treaty Organization member States for the period up to 2020, to set up a military committee, to build up the Collective Security Treaty Organization collective operational response forces and supply them with modern weaponry and military and special technology. Through the conduct of a series of joint exercises entitled "Rubezh", "Vzaimodeistvie", "Nerushimoe

bratstvo", "Kobalt" and "Grom", the level of preparedness of the troops of Collective Security Treaty Organization member States and of resources involved has increased.

At the session, the commitment to further joint strengthening of the Organization's collective security system and the enhancement of its effectiveness was affirmed.

Sochi, 23 September 2013